

SADDAM'S BEHAVIOR JUSTIFIES LIBERATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the June 11, 2003, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, entitled "The Right Thing." This editorial correctly notes that the atrocities committed by the horrific, repressive regime of Saddam Hussein were reason enough for liberating the people of Iraq.

[From the Omaha (NE) World-Herald, June 11, 2003]

THE RIGHT THING

Amid all the talk about whether, or even if, substantial numbers of weapons of mass destruction are going to be found in Iraq, it is also important to ask how much it matters.

Our assessment is that, yes, it does matter—in the sense that strongly couched reports of such weaponry were at the heart of the Bush administration's argument for toppling Saddam Hussein. Yet we also believe that the answer to the question, while instructive, is not pivotal. Ousting Saddam will turn out to be an overarching good deed. It stands on its own merits.

At present, the purported weapons are not turning up. Does this mean they just weren't there, or does it mean that Saddam's regime and the Baath zealots that undergirded it were exceptionally good at hiding them or destroying them or spiriting them across international borders? Let's hope the Pentagon's new weapons-hunting team, slated to take over the search soon, will provide definitive answers.

Four months ago, Secretary of State Colin Powell made an impassioned case before the U.N. Security Council that the weapons existed, along with equipment for making more. We said then that if one-half or even one-fourth of what Powell was asserting were true, there would be a strong case that the Iraqis weren't complying with U.N. mandates. At this point, there has been no hard evidence that the existence of even those fractions will be borne out. In addition (as we said then), the evidence of a Saddam-al Qaida link was iffy.

Fair enough. But we also went on to say that Saddam nonetheless should be ousted.

We stand by that. Saddam's behavior was that of some sort of devil incarnate. He murdered tens of thousands of his own citizens, starved others, tortured and maimed unknown numbers more, snubbed agreed-upon arms inspections and other mandates after the Gulf War of 1991 and attacked aircraft attempting to enforce "no-fly" zones.

We also said earlier that there were three scenarios for Saddam's departure. In descending order of desirability, they were abdication, liberation of Iraq by a U.N. force or liberation via a U.S. attack, aided only by allies.

The last of these three was what played out. That's unfortunate, but this is an imperfect world. Now that world wants to know: Did the U.S. administration, in company with Britain's Tony Blair, (1) get the weapons allegations right at the time when they were articulated; (2) err in assessing the evidence; or (3) just plain confabulate in order to drum up popular support?

If it turns out to be the last of those three, then the U.S. and British administrations will take their lumps in the marketplace of public opinion and perhaps at the polls as

well. We're not saying that's what happened; time will sort such matters out. But it ought to go without saying that Americans and Britons don't need to be "spun" ("conned," in older terminology) in order to do the right thing.

The right thing: Ousting Saddam was that. Exactly that. He was a murderer and a brutal oppressor who helped destabilize a whole region and robbed his people of a generation of progress. On that basis, Americans and Britons—along with others in the international community who will now seek to help Iraqis back to their rightful place in the world—have nothing to apologize for.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN McCANN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long career of Karen McCann as she retires from teaching in the Troy Public Schools District in June, after 35 years in the classroom. Beginning in 1968, Karen McCann brought dedication and innovation to teaching which continue unabated. Throughout her career, she has been a model for teachers, new and old alike, as well as a role model for her students.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1967 with a degree in Elementary Education, Karen McCann began teaching English and Social Studies for seventh through ninth grade in the Farmington Public Schools District. She eventually taught all subjects for students in grades ranging from fifth to ninth before moving to Bemis Elementary in the Troy Public Schools District in 1985.

During the course of her career, she has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Disney American Teacher Award in 2000 and the WDIV Outstanding Teacher Award in 2001, and was selected as a Mentor Teacher/Trainer by EDS for the MI JASON Project from 1997 through the present.

That she is a good teacher is evident from what her students have said about her; that she is a great teacher is evident from the remarks of parents and colleagues. Parents frequently expressed admiration for her positive attitude, her willingness to communicate with them, and her ability to challenge each child regardless of their initial interest in learning. Her colleagues have praised her for her enthusiasm and creativity.

She brought programs to the classroom that gave her students the opportunity to learn in creative ways and offered them unique educational experiences. She integrated Hyperstudio, multimedia, Internet, and videoconferencing into her lesson plans, allowing her students to teleconference other students so that they could learn from each other. She also succeeded in making learning about science and technology fun for all of her students, through her work with the JASON Project and the First Lego League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important contributions Karen McCann has made to so many children and their families during her long and celebrated teaching career.

IN HONOR OF JENNIFER BERNARDES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring dedication of Jennifer Bernades, a 13-year-old student whose compassion has had a wonderful effect on the life of her fellow New Jerseyan, Harry Ettlinger.

Ms. Bernades was one of the first students in New Jersey to take part in the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program, which matches young students with Holocaust survivors. Sponsored by the Holocaust Council of the United Jewish Communities of Metro West in Whippany, NJ, this program provides an amazing opportunity for young students to develop lasting relationships with and learn from those who have survived or escaped the Holocaust.

Mr. Ettlinger, a World War II veteran who escaped the Holocaust, was the adoptee of Jennifer Bernades, an eighth-grade student at Oliver Street School in Newark, NJ. As a participant in this program, Jennifer agreed to learn about Mr. Ettlinger's experiences, and to tell his story in 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Jennifer Bernades has demonstrated a strong commitment to learn about Mr. Ettlinger's experiences and met with him several times over the course of a year to hear his first-hand accounts. Recently, Jennifer spoke at Newark's Municipal Holocaust Commemoration sponsored by Mayor Sharpe James. She has also taken part in talks at the Jewish Community Campus in Whippany, NJ, and Oliver Street School, and has spoken with other school groups about participating in the program. Jennifer's dedication has taught her about humanity's darkest hour, and, in learning Mr. Ettlinger's story, she has inspired others to participate in this invaluable program.

Jennifer's commitment has gone beyond what the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program hopes to accomplish. Earlier this year, Jennifer helped reunite Mr. Ettlinger with Hanne Hirsch, a childhood neighbor and schoolmate from his hometown of Karlsruhe, Germany, who he had not been able to locate after the Holocaust. On a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, Jennifer and a fellow student noticed Mrs. Hirsch's story at an exhibit, and after successfully tracking her down, Mr. Ettlinger was reunited with Mrs. Hirsch after 64 years.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jennifer Bernades for her devotion and enthusiasm, and for her commitment to keeping alive the personal histories of Holocaust survivors. It is through the dedication of America's youth that we can ensure that these important stories are never forgotten.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR CON- STRUCTING A FACILITY TO EN- RICH URANIUM, AND FOR SUP- PORTING TERRORISM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution, which calls on